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FOREIGN NEWS

A British Disaster.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Daily Express publishes a rumor of a serious disaster to the British arms. According to this report the Boers attacked the camp of General Clements, in the Barberton district capturing the camp, killing a number of British officers and taking prisoners all the British troops, including four companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers. LONDON, Dec. 15.—Lord Kitchener reports that eighteen officers and 555 men are missing from General Clement's force. They consist of four companies of Northumberland Fusiliers. Judging from the message these were captured by the Boers. Clement's casualties December 13 amounted to five officers and nine men killed and many apparently wounded.

Germany in a Financial Crisis.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A dispatch to the Journal and Advertiser from Berlin says: The pessimistic speech of Baron von Fleishmann, Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, in the Reichstag on Monday, in which he told the country to prepare for a period of hard times, as the financial situation was gloomy, has created a sensation in the money market. There has been such a slump in the price of mortgage bonds that unless public confidence is restored, the economic ability of Germany will be imperiled, some banks and bankers may find themselves in serious difficulties and a financial crisis of unparalleled gravity may be precipitated in Berlin.

The first Preussische Hypothek Bank and the Deutsche Grunschild Bank are unable to meet the strain and the Government has appointed receivers in both cases. To avert a crash the Deutsche Bank and some other houses have formed a committee for the protection of bondholders and are advancing funds in payment of interest due.

Will Help Canal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The Herald's correspondent in Managua, Nicaragua, telegraphs that President Zelaya repeats his former statements that he will not place any obstacle in the way of the construction of the Nicaragua canal by the United States government, but on the contrary, will offer every possible means in his power to aid the United States in the great work.

America's Peace Policy Adopted.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A dispatch to the Herald from Vienna says the Neue Wiener Tageblatt learns that all the European ministers in Peking have received final instructions from their governments that the beginning of peace negotiations can be made at once. The success of the American policy is even more complete than expected. As an interesting proof of this it is learned from the very best source that the powers constituting the triple alliance, which at the beginning was strongly opposed to the American policy, have now requested their ministers to limit as far as possible all matters of formality in the peace negotiations, so that peace may be speedily concluded.

General Chaffee for Manila.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: If the wishes of high ranking officers in the Philippines are observed, many important changes will occur at the end of the present dry season. Several of the general officers are urging that they be ordered home, and it is expected that when the volunteers are returned they will accompany them. It is the general belief of well-informed officers that General MacArthur and General A. E. Bates will return to the United States within a few months and Major General Chaffee now in command at Peking, will be ordered to Manila as General MacArthur's successor.

Typhoon's Work at Hongkong.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 12.—After a most stormy passage the Empress of India arrived here today, one day late. She brought news of the great typhoon which caused such large loss of life and great destruction of property at Hongkong and the vicinity. Some place the loss of life at 2,500, others at 4,000, and the Hongkong Telegraph says the loss of life has been appalling, it being impossible to estimate the dead. Upward of eighty steam launches and such craft were lost, together with a great number of junks, lighters, sampans and small craft.

The British gunboat Sandpiper was also lost and the American sailing vessel Benjamin Sewall went ashore, but fortunately she was saved from being wrecked, although she did not escape injury. Hundreds of buildings ashore were wrecked, and so great was the destruction of shipping that the beach was lined with masses of wreckage and craft which had been broken to matchwood. The police rescued numbers from the wrecks.

The lighter Canton River, which cost \$40,000, was lost, her crew of 50 men being rescued.

TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS

The Czar is well again.

The Nansen fund has reached \$250,000.

Ellen Terry has retired from the stage.

Returning Laplanders say reindeer do not thrive in Alaska.

The Sultan gave a dinner to the officers of the battleship Kentucky.

Chicago has a bill prepared which will permit her to own her street railways.

The French Governments seeking to buy American paintings for the National Gallery.

The Pacific Mail will fight the shipping subsidy bill because of the clause aimed at their Oriental crews.

More trouble is brewing for the de Castellanes. Their valuable yacht has now been seized by their creditors.

An astronomical expedition from the University of California is to be sent to Australia and South America.

The German Government positively denies any intention of keeping troops in the Chinese Empire permanently.

It is reported that either the Prince of Wales or the Duke of York will attend the American cup races next August.

A proposition is on foot to join the great lakes and Atlantic by a 30 foot channel to cost over three hundred millions.

The California State Educational Commission is making a fight to eliminate political influence from the Normal Schools.

The Shah of Persia is an enthusiastic automobilist and recently made a long journey in a horseless carriage which he purchased in Paris.

An Alaska guide has discovered Indians in Western Alaska living in the fashion of past ages. They wear ivory ornaments in nose and mouth.

A bill for the re-enactment of the anti-Chinese law will be presented on the first day of the new Congress by Representative Kahn of California.

Wm. J. Bryan will establish a weekly paper, called the "Commoner," at Lincoln, Neb., devoted to the discussion of public questions.

It is proposed to adopt a new prime meridian for time-keeping, making a universal hour all over the world, without regard to longitude.

Nicaragua and Costa Rica have announced that they will grant a lease of the Nicaragua canal to the United States for a period of 200 years.

A bronze reproduction of "Winged Victory" will be presented to Admiral Dewey's old flagship, the Olympia, as a figurehead, when repairs have been completed.

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